

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

WEST VIRGINIA FIELD TRIP, MAY 29—JUNE 2

Five members of the Torrey Botanical Club enjoyed a foray in the mountains of the Monongahela National Forest of eastern West Virginia over the Memorial Day week-end. This trip should be an annual one of the club. Its success was due to the preliminary scouting and guidance of Rev. Fred W. Gray of Philippi, W.Va., a Methodist minister, who finds time among numerous parish duties to be one of the most extensive collectors of lichens and mosses in America and to correspond with German lichen specialists, one of whom, Dr. Heinrich Sandstede, has named a cupped lichen, *Cladonia Grayi*.

The party left Jersey City Wednesday evening, and reached Davis, West Va., at 2 P.M., on Thursday where Mr. Gray, and his daughter, Miss Henrietta, were waiting. He led us at once to Canaan Mountain, where he had spent the forenoon marking out species in which he thought we would be most interested.

He showed us *Cladonia brevis*, and *digitata*, the second interesting to find so far south, and commoner species. A little *Cetraria islandica* was found on the summit, at 4,000 feet. Then we drove to Canaan Swamp, where we found much *Cladonia gracilis*, f. *dilatata* in a spruce swamp at 3,500 feet, suggestive of the occurrences of this species in the Adirondacks and northern New England. A stately herb in this swamp, new to us, was *Euphorbia Darlingtoni*, three feet tall, with very large yellowish green bracts.

On Friday, Mr. Gray could not be with us, but he had arranged with Supervisor A. W. Wood of the Monongahela National Forest, for our guidance to Spruce Knob, 4,860 feet, from a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp on Laurel Branch. On the way in from Elkins, on a ridge east of Shaver's Branch of Cheat River, we saw *Clintonia umbellulata*, a beautiful plant, and plenty of *Trillium undulatum*. From the C.C.C. camp, one of Mr. Wood's rangers led us over narrow, rocky roads, up and down steep mountainsides, through the Sinks, a limestone region where the streams disappear and reappear, to the foot of Spruce Knob, to the summit of which we had to climb only about 800 feet in altitude.

Going up the path to the abandoned fire observatory, we soon began to see great numbers of *Dicentra eximia*, rare northward, but the prevailing bloom at the season on this mountain, very handsome and profuse in its purple flowers, resembling the Garden Bleeding Heart. Fossil Calamite impressions were frequent in the sandstone fragments along the path.

The summit of Spruce Knob is a long, rather level area, a mile wide, and eight miles long, mostly above 4,500 feet. The ascent from the high valley on the west is gentle, but there is a drop of almost 3,000 feet into the valley to the east and a magnificent view covering several parallel high ridges in that direction.

On the red spruces and on *Abies Fraseri*, near the highest point, we found our old friend of high spots, from Gaspé to the Great Smokies, *Parmelia Cladonia*. Walking northward, we found large and robust masses of *Cladonia rangiferina*, as tall as one finds it 700 miles north. But the prize discovery was *Cladonia alpestris*, rarely reported south of the latitude of New York, and not before found in West Virginia. It grew with *C. rangiferina*, in sheltered crevices fractured in the summit sandstone. *C. gracilis*, f. *dilatata* was common in the spruce woods on the west slope, which we descended back to our car.

We sought another way off Spruce Knob, and descended about 2,500 feet, along rather alarming roads, one way, no place for turn outs, with steep slopes dropping several hundred feet into gullies, on the outside. On the way, a furry growth on the bars of a gate at a mountain farm proved to be dense masses of *Alectoria jubata*, *Usnea barbata*, and *Ramalina calicaris*, mingled together like sheep's wool.

On Saturday, Mr. Gray and his daughter and two of his sons joined us and we went to Cheat Bridge, where we found ample, robust *C. gracilis*, f. *dilatata*, *Parmelia Cladonia* and other interesting things. Mr Gray remained with us until mid-afternoon, showing us more of his *Cladonia* locations, and we parted with him and his children in the hope that we may enjoy more such excursions with such an accomplished and kindly guide.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

TRIP TO SPARTA ON MAY 30, 1935

On May 30th a small party visited a few of the interesting spots in the vicinity of Sparta, N.J. In the morning a search was made for ferns in a swampy section along the railroad west of the town. *Dryopteris* hybrids were frequent and colonies of *Botrychium matricariaefolium* and *Ophioglossum vulgatum* were seen. In Sparta Glen the *Phegopteris Dryopteris* and *Phegopteris polypodioides* colonies were visited and *Streptopus roseus* was seen in flower. In the afternoon the party visited the Pine Swamp near the top of the hills east of Sparta. Only one noteworthy fern was found here, a few plants of *Botrychium angustisegmentum* at the edge of the swamp, but other interesting plants were noted. *Calla palustris*, *Clintonia borealis* and *Nemophanthus mucronata* were in flower. The possibility of *Arceuthobium pusillum* occurring on the Black Spruce was suggested and everybody searched for it on the small trees near the trail. Mr. V. L. Frazee soon found a tree which had a number of the little plants growing on the twigs. This is the second New Jersey station to be discovered for the dwarf mistletoe, the other being at the bog west of Lake Mashipacong near the top of the Kittatinny ridge in Sussex Co. This bog is also called a "Pine Swamp." The Sparta Pine Swamp is located at the extreme eastern edge of Sussex Co. about 35 miles from New York City. The elevation is 1,250 feet above sea level which is about 50 feet higher than the Mashipacong Pine Swamp.

JAMES L. EDWARDS

TRIP OF JUNE 29-30

Twelve members and guests assembled at Turnwood for the trip along the Beaverkill for native stands of *Aconitum noveboracense*. Saturday afternoon was spent along the stream and a few aconites were in full bloom. Weather was ideal and the two small showers did not spoil the party. Showers are frequent at 2,400 feet.

Saturday was spent at the Rice House in Livingston Manor some twenty miles away. An excellent place to visit since the owners know every part of the region. Another short trip was under way after dinner.

Sunday morning we visited Shin Creek and followed the gorge and falls for some distance. Shin Creek empties into the

Beaverkill at Lewbeach. The falls are well worth seeing. Returning to the road along the Beaverkill we passed another falls and continued up to the entrance to the Balsam Lake Club. Parked the cars and followed the Beaverkill up to the 2,800 foot level. Then we followed a small stream and visited Tunis Lake. Some fine stands of aconites were found along the Beaverkill but none were found on Shin Creek or Tunis Lake. This extends the range of aconites along the Beaverkill from Roscoe to the 2,800 foot level. We did not try to reach the top of Double Top Mountain but will do so the next trip. Members of the club found many other plants of interest. The region covered is private property and permission must be secured before one can enter but this has done much to keep the region in its natural condition.

WM. J. BONISTEEL

TRIP OF AUGUST 24

Mr. W. Herbert Dale, who entertained members and guests of the club in his fern garden, at 23 Overlook Avenue, West Orange, N. J., sends a list of the species, which, from its variety, appears to represent one of the largest private collections in this vicinity. The list speaks for itself:

- Adiantum pedatum* (Maiden hair)
- Athyrium angustum* (Lady fern)
- Athyrium acrostichoides* (Silvery fern)
- Athyrium angustifolium* (Narrow leaf)
- Asplenium platyneuron* (Ebony spleenwort)
- Asplenium Trichomanes* (Maidenhair spleenwort)
- Asplenium cleptolepis* (Rue spleenwort)
- Botrychium obliquum* (Grape fern)
- Botrychium dissectum*
- Botrychium virginianum* (Rattlesnake fern)
- Camptosorus rhizophyllus* (Walking fern)
- Cheilanthes lanosa* (Lip fern)
- Cryptogramma Stelleri* (Slender cliff brake)
- Cryptogramma acrostichoides* (Persley fern)
- Cyrtomia falcatum* (hardy exotic)
- Dryopteris filix-mas* (Male fern)
- Dryopteris marginalis* (Marginal shield)
- Dryopteris noveboracense* (New York fern)
- Dryopteris simulata* (Massachusetts fern)
- Dryopteris Thelypteris* (Marsh fern)
- Dryopteris spinulosa* (Spinulose fern)
- Dryopteris dilatata*
- Dryopteris cristata* (Crested shield fern)

Dryopteris Clintoniana
Denstaedtia punctilobula (Hay scented)
Cystopteris fragilis (Fragile fern)
Cystopteris bulbifera (Bulbous fern)
Lygodium palmatum (Climbing fern)
Osmunda regalis (Royal fern)
Osmunda cinnamomea (Cinnamon fern)
Osmunda Claytoniana (Interrupted fern)
Onoclea sensibilis (Sensitive fern)
Onoclea struthiopteris (Ostrich fern)
Polypodium virginianum (Polypody)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas fern)
Polystichum acrostichoides (crested form)
Polystichum acrostichoides (crisped form)
Pellaea atropurpurea (Purple cliff brake)
Phegopteris hexagonoptera (Broad beech)
Phegopteris polypodioides (Lond beech)
Phegopteris Dryopteris (Oak fern)
Pteris aquilina (Bracken)
Scolopendrium vulgare (Hearts tongue)
Woodsia obtusa (Blunt lobed woodsia)
Woodsia ilvensis (Rusty woodsia)
Woodwardia areolata (Net-veined chain fern)
Woodwardia radicans (western)
Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adders tongue)
Dryopteris Goldiana
Dryopteris Tsussemense (hardy Japanese)
Dryopteris Bootii.

All but three of these are native and eastern. The only species that might readily be added from this region are *Woodwardia virginica*, *Asplenium montanum* and *Schizaea pusilla*.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF MAY 29, 1935

The meeting was called to order by President Hazen at 3:30 P.M. at the New York Botanical Garden.

The minutes of the meetings of April 17 and May 7 were read and approved. Twenty-six members were present.

The following persons were elected to membership in the Club: Mr. E. B. Mains, University Herbarium, Museum Building, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Miss Antoinette Wilson, 89 North Main Street, Spring Valley, N. Y.; Miss Rose Jacobsen, Julia Richman High School, 319 East 67th Street, New York City; Miss Dorothy Pease, 12 Cedar Avenue, Montclair, N. J.; Mr. W. Herbert Dole, 23 Overlook Avenue, West Orange, N.J.; Mr. W. M. Banfield, 25 Morris Avenue, Morristown, N. J.